

**REMARKS/ARGUMENTS**

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of the application are respectfully requested in view of the amendments and remarks herewith, which place the application into condition for allowance. The present amendment is being made to facilitate prosecution of the application.

**I. STATUS OF THE CLAIMS AND FORMAL MATTERS**

Claims 1-20 are pending in this application. Claims 1, 4, 7, 10, 13, and 16, which are independent, are hereby amended. It is submitted that these claims, as originally presented, were in full compliance with the requirements 35 U.S.C. §112. No new matter has been introduced by this amendment. Support for this amendment is provided throughout the Specification. Changes to claims are not made for the purpose of patentability within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. §101, §102, §103, or §112. Rather, these changes are made simply for clarification and to round out the scope of protection to which the Applicants are entitled.

**II. REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. §103(a)**

Claims 1-18 and 20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,324,334 to Morioka, et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,014,170 to Pont, et al.

Claim 19 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,324,334 to Morioka, et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,014,170 to Pont, et al. and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,011,546 to Bertram.

Amended independent claim 1 now recites, *inter alia*:

“...whereby said data recorder-reproducer includes interpolation means for restoring lost input data by using stored parity data and remaining input data and an integral mixer operable to superimpose bit map data on data to be recorded by said recorder-reproducer such that the data to be recorded is recorded with the superimposed data, and/or to superimpose said bit map data on data that is reproduced by said recorder-reproducer.”

(Emphasis Added)

As understood by Applicants, U.S. Patent No. 6,324,334 to Morioka, et al.

(hereinafter, merely “Morioka”) relates a recording and reproducing apparatus for recording and reproducing hybrid data that includes video data, audio data, and additional data onto a recording medium.

As understood by Applicants, U.S. Patent No. 6,014,170 to Pont, et al.

(hereinafter, merely “Pont”) relates to an information processing apparatus that enables information stored in a device that can record a plurality of information stored in a device that can record a plurality of data items in addition to a main image, such as an electronic camera, to be read into a personal computer in an appropriate order and to be reproduced in an appropriate order.

Applicants submit that nothing has been found in Morioka or Pont that would disclose or suggest the above-identified features of independent claim 1.

Therefore, Independent claim 1 is believed to be patentable.

For reasons similar or somewhat similar to those described above, independent claims 4, 7, 10, 13, 16 are also believed to be patentable.

### III. DEPENDENT CLAIMS

The other claims in this application are each dependent from one of the independent claims discussed above and are therefore believed patentable for at least the same reasons. Since each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual reconsideration of the patentability of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

### CONCLUSION

In the event the Examiner disagrees with any of statements appearing above with respect to the disclosure in the cited references, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner specifically indicate the portion, or portions, of the reference, or references, providing the basis for a contrary view.

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In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is believed that all of the claims in this application are patentable and Applicants respectfully request early passage to issue of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,  
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